

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00044 101131Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W
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R 101033Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1570
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 44

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: SPLIT IN PEACE MOVEMENTS WIDENS

REF: BELFAST 18

1. BELFAST PEACE PEOPLE ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 8 PROMINENT CATHOLIC LAYMAN TOM CONATY WAS NO LONGER ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOVEMENT. IN INTERVIEW CIARAN MC KEOWN MADE IT CLEAR THAT CONATY WAS UNWELCOME BECAUSE HE HAD WARNED THAT FURTHER ATTACKS ON CHURCH LEADERS WOULD LEAD TO (CONATY) ACCUSATION THAT THESE ATTACKS WERE SPLITTING THE MOVEMENT. CONATY IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO BELFAST HIERARCHY AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR YEARS AS LEADER WEST BELFAST CENTRAL CITIZENS DEFENCE COMMITTEE. HE PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN ORGANIZING 1976 PEACE RALLIES AND FEATURED PROMINENTLY ON LOCAL TELEVISION DEFENDING MAIREAD CORRIGAN IN ONE VIOLENT INCIDENT.

2. FEBRUARY 9, ONE OF LONDONDERRY PEACE ORGANIZERS (LIAM DOHERTY) SUPPORTED MR. CONATY'S POSITION AND ANNOUNCED LONDONDERRY GROUP WOULD RECONSIDER PLANS TO HOLD A RALLY THERE NEXT SEPTEMBER. ONE ELEMENT IN THIS SITUATION SEEMS TO BE THE GROWING BELIEF IN LONDONDERRY THAT PEACE MOVEMENT IS "BELFAST-
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CENTERED." CIARAN MC KEOWN HAS MET THIS CRITICISM BY ANNOUNCING PLANS TO FINANCE A PEACE PEOPLE COOPERATIVE IN STRABANE AND STRESSING THAT THE PEACE PEOPLE'S CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN ENNISKILLEN IN APRIL. SHANKILL PEACE GROUP FEBRUARY 9 PROTESTED MC KEOWN'S "DICTATORIAL METHODS."

3. LOSS OF CONATY WILL ULTIMATELY BE SERIOUS FOR PEACE

PEOPLE. HE IS A BRIDGE BETWEEN CATHOLIC WORKING AND MIDDLE
CLASSES AND HIS ACTIVE PRESENCE BOTH ENCOURAGED CLERICAL
SUPPORT AND SHIELDED MOVEMENT FROM ACCUSATION THAT IT IS
ZRADICAL" OR "LEFT WING."SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, PARTY SCHISMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D770047-1149
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 66
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PINT, UK, EI, (CONATY, TOM)
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